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Letter dated 25 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you the attached information on the outcomes of the socioeconomic development of the Republic of Uzbekistan in 2016 and the priorities of the economic and social programme in 2017 (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 19.

(*Signed*) Muzaffar **Madrakhimov**

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Annex to the letter dated 25 January 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Outcomes of socioeconomic development in Uzbekistan in 2016 and the main priorities of the Government's economic and social programme in 2017

On 14 January 2017, the Cabinet of Ministers held an enlarged meeting to comprehensively analyse the outcomes of the country's socioeconomic development and identify the main activities and priorities of the Government's economic and social programme in 2017.

The meeting was attended by leaders of the Legislative Chamber and the Senate of the Oliy Majlis, State Advisers to the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan, members of the Government, heads of economic associations and civic organizations, members of the Jokargy Kenes (parliament) and the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and also provincial, municipal and district governors (*khokims*). For the first time, senior officials from local governments (*khokimiyats*) and territorial subdivisions of ministries, agencies and companies, as well as entrepreneurs, took part in the government meeting using videoconferencing technology connecting studios in provincial, municipal and regional centres.

A presentation was given at the meeting by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev of the Republic of Uzbekistan.

His report indicated that the continued and consistent implementation in 2016 of the Uzbek development model and the midterm programme for further reform, structural transformation and modernization of the country, developed under the leadership of the first President of Uzbekistan, Mr. Islam Karimov, had maintained stable and sustainable high economic growth rates and macroeconomic balance, which had increased the living standard and quality of life of the population.

During a discussion of topical issues on the agenda of the Cabinet of Ministers' meeting, it was noted that the country's gross domestic product (GDP) rose by 7.8 per cent in 2016. There were growth figures of 6.6 per cent for manufacturing, 12.5 per cent for contracted construction work, 14.4 per cent for retail trade and 12.5 per cent for services. The State budget was implemented with a surplus of around 0.1 per cent of GDP. A positive balance of foreign trade was achieved. The level of inflation did not exceed projections and stood at 5.7 per cent.

More than $16.6 billion (an increase of 9.6 per cent) was invested in the economy compared with 2015. Foreign investments and loans increased by 11.3 per cent and exceeded $3.7 billion. One hundred and sixty-four major investment projects totalling some $5.2 billion were completed, including the manufacture of T-250 automobile models at GM Uzbekistan; the expansion of a cement factory in Jizak Province; and the commissioning of two 900 megawatt combined-cycle plants at the Talijarman thermal power station and also a 150 megawatt high-ash coal burning unit at the Angren thermal power station.

The new electrified railway line between Angren and Pap was completed with a unique 19-kilometre tunnel through the Kamchik mountain pass, providing a reliable transport connection between the Fergana Valley and the rest of the country. "Afrosiyob" high-speed passenger trains became operational along the Tashkent-Bukhara route in both directions.

The policy measures implemented to modernize and diversify agriculture increased agricultural production by 6.6 per cent, including an increase of 11.2 per cent in horticultural production, an increase of 9.7 per cent in potato production and an increase of 10.4 per cent in melon production.

The measures taken to comprehensively support and protect private property and entrepreneurship contributed to the creation of some 32,000 new small businesses in 2016: an 18 per cent increase over 2015. The contribution of small businesses to the country's GDP rose to 56.9 per cent, and to 45 per cent in manufacturing.

As a result of positive structural reforms and rapid economic growth, the real income of the population rose by 11 per cent. Public sector wages grew by 15 per cent, and pensions and social benefits rose by 12.1 per cent. Some 726,000 people gained employment, including 438,500 graduates of educational institutions.

Under the "Year of the Healthy Mother and Child" State programme, a broad range of measures were carried out to improve maternal and child health and to raise a healthy and well-rounded generation. Funds to that programme from all sources totalled over 8 trillion sum ($212 million).

In his report, the President provided a detailed and comprehensive analysis of the outstanding issues and the reserves not fully used, and made proposals on key strategic objectives and the main priorities of the country's economic and social programmes in 2017. Priorities included focusing on the development of an ongoing and open dialogue with the population in the context of the "Year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interests" State programme, and continuing a proactive social policy aimed at further enhancing the standard of living and quality of life of the population and people's material well-being.

The Government and heads of ministries, departments, economic associations and local executive authorities were specifically tasked with eliminating shortcomings in the development of sectors and territories; developing and implementing a package of measures aimed at maintaining high economic growth rates; continuing the proactive investment policy; enhancing the country's export capacity; comprehensively and intensively developing territories; strengthening the protection of business rights and interests; gradually reducing the role of the State in managing the economy; and fundamentally improving the operation of State agencies.

Critical tasks and measures were identified to implement agreed new programmes for the construction of affordable housing and the development and upgrading of road transport and communications and social infrastructure in order to improve the living conditions of the population in urban and rural areas.

At the meeting, during the discussion of the agenda, reports were heard from the Prime Minister of the Republic of Uzbekistan and his deputies, from the heads

of several ministries, agencies and economic associations, from the presiding officer of the Jokargy Kenes of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, and from provincial and Tashkent *khokims*.

The meeting resulted in the President of Uzbekistan submitting the following priorities and requirements to the Government and heads of ministries, departments, economic associations and *khokimiyats*:

First, to develop comprehensive measures to implement the 11 main priorities of the economic and social programme in 2017;

Second, to systematically ensure critical analysis of the country's economic and social sectors and territories and, on that basis, make corresponding adjustments to the main activities and priorities for deeper economic reforms;

Third, to increase the personal accountability of managers and officials for the end results, ensure compliance with strict discipline and enhance the effectiveness of management systems in accordance with increased contemporary requirements.

This meeting resulted in the adoption of a government decision which identified practical steps to implement the main activities and priorities of the country's socioeconomic development programme in 2017.